

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2002-416-C - ORDER NO. 2003-425

JUNE 20, 2003

IN RE: Generic Proceeding to Review Requirements	)	ORDER
for Competitive Local Exchange Carriers	)	GRANTING
Providing Prepaid Local Exchange.	)	MOTIONS

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on Motions for Order Allowing Filing of Rebuttal (or Reply) Testimony by three of the intervenors in this case: National ALEC Association/Prepaid Communications Association (NALA), the South Carolina Telephone Coalition (SCTC), and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth). A fourth intervenor, Aspire Telecom, Inc. (Aspire) joined in NALA's Motion.


Typical of these Motions is the one by NALA. NALA moves this Commission for an Order allowing the filing of "rebuttal" (or reply) testimony by it in response to the prefiled direct testimony of other intervenors, and attaches the proposed "rebuttal" testimony of its witness to the Motion. NALA notes that the usual scheduling order does not provide for the filing of "rebuttal" testimony by one intervenor to the direct testimony of another. NALA further recognizes, however, that this Commission has, in another proceeding, found that allowing the parties to fully address and respond to the issues aids the Commission's decision-making process. In addition, NALA states a belief that allowing "rebuttal" testimony by it and other intervenors will decrease the amount of cross-examination necessary at the hearing and will therefore shorten the hearing time.

NALA's counsel further noted that she had notified the other parties of her intent to file "rebuttal" testimony, in order to give all parties the opportunity to request similar treatment. The other Motions present similar arguments to the ones presented by NALA, and have as attachments the proposed "rebuttal" or reply testimony. Again, Aspire simply joined in NALA's Motion.

We grant all Motions. This generic proceeding is an attempt to gather as much information as possible on its subject matter. Further, we agree with NALA and the other intervenors that allowing the parties to fully address and respond to the issues aids in this Commission's decision-making process. Accordingly, all Motions are granted, and the proffered "rebuttal"-reply testimony may be properly introduced at the time of the hearing.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Mignon L. Clyburn  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Gary E. Walsh  
Executive Director

(SEAL)